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Agenda item 105

REVIEW OF THE EFFICIENCY OF THE ADMINISTRATIVE AND FINANCIAL FUNCTIONING OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat

Note by the Chairman

1. At its 3rd meeting, on 6 October 1994, the Fifth Committee decided to invite the Second, Third and Fourth Committees to review the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the Secretariat (A/49/336), which had been submitted under agenda item 105 entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

2. To date, two Committees, the Second and Fourth Committees, have submitted to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee the results of action taken by those Committees. The substantive portions of their letters, along with the relevant attachments, are reproduced below in annexes I and II respectively to the present document. Communication from the other Committee, once received, will be transmitted as an addenda to the present document.

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ANNEX I

Letter dated 27 October 1994 from the Chairman of the Fourth Committee to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

At the 7th and 10th meetings, of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), on 18 and 26 October 1994 respectively, I drew the attention of the members of the Committee to agenda item 105 entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations" and requested them to submit, in writing, their views on some of the issues contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the restructuring of the United Nations Secretariat.

In that connection, I wish to inform you that I have not received any views from the members.

(Signed) Borys M. HUDYMA

ANNEX II

Letter dated 31 October 1994 from the Chairman of the Second Committee to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee

In response to your letter dated 10 October 1994 (A/C.2/49/5) addressed to me, I have the honour to enclose, for your appropriate action, the following two letters:

(a) A letter dated 20 October 1994 addressed to me, on behalf of the European Union, by Mr. W. Runge, Minister Plenipotentiary, Permanent Mission of Germany to the United Nations;

(b) A letter dated 27 October 1994 from Mr. Ramtane Lamamra, Permanent Representative of Algeria to the United Nations, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, regarding agenda item 105 entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations".

(Signed) Sher Afgan KHAN

APPENDIX I

Letter dated 20 October 1994 from the Representative of Germany to the Chairman of the Second Committee

I refer to the letter dated 10 October 1994 from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee to you (A/C.2/49/5).

On behalf of the European Union, I would like to comment on what has been mentioned by some delegations concerning the request of the Secretary-General to the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to assist him in enhancing policy coherence within the United Nations and overall coordination of operational activities for development.

First of all, we would like to stress that it is within the prerogative of the Secretary-General to appoint the Administrator of UNDP as his assistant on economic and social matters, especially in developmental affairs and coordination. As Chief Administrative Officer of the Organization, the Secretary-General has the right to appoint an adviser to assist him in his task.

We are hopeful that the Secretary-General, in devising such a role, will be successful in improving further a coordinated and unified approach of the United Nations, as he has been requested to do by the Member States, especially in General Assembly resolution 47/199, in the policy review of operational activities.

APPENDIX II

Letter dated 27 October 1994 from the Permanent Representative of Algeria to the Chairman of the Second Committee

I have the honour to refer to document A/C.2/49/5 dated 11 October 1994 containing the letter dated 10 October 1994 from the President of the General Assembly to the Chairman of the Second Committee enclosing, in turn, a letter from the Chairman of the Fifth Committee regarding agenda item 105 entitled "Review of the efficiency of the administrative and financial functioning of the United Nations". You had requested members of the Committee to convey their views in writing regarding the decision of the Secretary-General to request the Administrator of the United Nations Development Programme to assist him in enhancing policy coherence within the United Nations and overall coordination of operational activities for development.

In this connection, I would like to draw your attention to the Ministerial Declaration of the Group of 77 adopted on the occasion of the Eighteenth Annual Ministerial Meeting of the Group of 77, held at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 30 September 1994. In paragraph 19 of that Declaration (A/49/462, annex), the Ministers "stressed the need for institutions that were involved in implementation of financial and technical cooperation programmes to be distinct from those involved in overall policy-making and coordination".

The Group of 77 stresses also that the reform of the United Nations Secretariat should be carried out without affecting the activities mandated by Member States through General Assembly resolutions.

I would be grateful if the views of the Group of 77 and China could be conveyed appropriately to the Chairman of the Fifth Committee.